

What is claimed is:

1. A system for manufacturing a film case including a casing having an exposure opening and a film discharge slot, for storing a plurality of sheet-like films therein, a film
5 cover detachably mounted in said exposure opening for holding the sheet-like films in a light-shielded fashion in said casing, a lid closing said casing with the sheet-like films stored therein, and a presser mounted on said lid for
10 pressing the sheet-like films stored in said casing toward said exposure opening, comprising:

a film cover supply machine for supplying the film cover;

a presser supply machine for supplying the presser; and

15 a main assembly line for assembling the film cover supplied from said film cover supply machine in said casing, and assembling the presser supplied from said presser supply machine on said lid.

20 2. A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a casing/lid supply machine for supplying a plurality of combinations of casings and lids in a container to said main assembly line.

25 3. A system according to claim 2, wherein said casing/lid supply machine comprises:

a pushing mechanism for pushing casings and lids from

said container and storing the casings and the lids into a buffer magazine; and

a removing mechanism for removing the casings and the lids from said buffer magazine and supplying the casings and the lids to said main assembly line.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said film cover supply machine comprises:

a first light-shielding sheet mounting mechanism for mounting a first light-shielding sheet for keeping said film discharge slot in a light-shielded fashion on an end of said film cover;

a second light-shielding sheet mounting mechanism for mounting a second light-shielding sheet for keeping a groove defined in an end of said exposure opening to remove the sheet-like films from the casing, in a light-shielded fashion on an end of said film cover; and

a film cover feed line for feeding said film cover to said casing on said main assembly line.

5. A system according to claim 4, wherein said first light-shielding sheet mounting mechanism or said second light-shielding sheet mounting mechanism comprises:

a nip roller for nipping a light-shielding sheet ribbon supplied from a roll and supplying the light-shielding sheet ribbon by a predetermined length;

a cutting mechanism for cutting a predetermined length

of said light-shielding sheet ribbon into said first light-shielding sheet or said second light-shielding sheet; and

a switching mechanism for selectively switching said nip roller into and out of nipping engagement with said light-shielding sheet ribbon.

6. A system according to claim 5, wherein said switching mechanism comprises means for switching said nip roller out of nipping engagement with said light-shielding sheet ribbon each time said light-shielding sheet ribbon is cut off.

7. A system according to claim 5, wherein said nip roller is reversed to return said light-shielding sheet ribbon by a predetermined length after the light-shielding sheet ribbon is cut off.

8. A system according to claim 1, wherein said presser supply machine comprises:

a first presser supply mechanism for supplying a first presser having a central region to be fixed to said lid;

a second presser supply mechanism for supplying a second presser having an end to be fixed to said first presser;

a joining and fixing mechanism for joining and fixing said first presser and said second presser to each other; and

a presser feed line for feeding said first presser and said second presser to said lid on said main assembly line.

5 9. A system according to claim 1, wherein said main assembly line comprises:

a separating mechanism for separating said casing and said lid from each other;

10 a first assembly line and a second assembly line for feeding said casing and said lid, respectively, parallel to each other;

a foil mounting mechanism for mounting a direction identifying foil on an end of said lid;

a presser mounting mechanism for mounting the presser supplied from said pressure supply machine on said lid;

15 a third light-shielding sheet mounting mechanism for mounting a third light-shielding sheet for keeping said film discharge slot in a light-shielded fashion on an end of said casing;

20 a film cover mounting mechanism for mounting said film cover supplied from said film cover feed line in said exposure opening in said casing; and

an assembling mechanism for assembling said casing and said lid together.

25 10. A system according to claim 9, wherein said third light-shielding sheet mounting mechanism comprises:

a nip roller for nipping a light-shielding sheet ribbon

supplied from a roll and supplying the light-shielding sheet ribbon by a predetermined length;

5 a cutting mechanism for cutting a predetermined length of said light-shielding sheet ribbon into said third light-shielding sheet; and

a switching mechanism for selectively switching said nip roller into and out of nipping engagement with said light-shielding sheet ribbon.

10 11. A system according to claim 10, wherein said switching mechanism comprises means for switching said nip roller out of nipping engagement with said light-shielding sheet ribbon each time said light-shielding sheet ribbon is cut off.

15 12. A system according to claim 10, wherein said nip roller is reversed to return said light-shielding sheet ribbon by a predetermined length after the light-shielding sheet ribbon is cut off.

20 13. A system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a film case stacking machine for stacking a plurality of film cases each comprising said casing with said film cover assembled therein and said lid with said presser
25 assembled thereon, in a container.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein said film

case stacking machine comprises:

a pushing mechanism for pushing film cases supplied from said main assembly line from a feed line and storing the film cases into a buffer magazine; and

5 a removing mechanism for removing the film cases from said buffer magazine and supplying the film cases to said container.

10 15. A system according to claim 1, wherein said main assembly line is linear.

16. A system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a container feed line extending along said main assembly line, for feeding a container with said film case stored therein.

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17. A system according to claim 1, wherein said film cover supply machine or said presser supply machine comprises:

20 a discharging air applying mechanism for applying discharging air sideways to a stack of film covers or pressers.

25 18. A system according to claim 17, wherein said discharging air applying mechanism includes a positioning frame for positioning said film covers or said pressers which are caused to flow by said discharging air.

19. A system according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of inspecting stations for imaging and inspecting manufacturing steps with respective imaging devices.

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20. A method of manufacturing a film case including a casing having an exposure opening and a film discharge slot, for storing a plurality of sheet-like films therein, a film cover detachably mounted in said exposure opening for holding the sheet-like films in a light-shielded fashion in said casing, a lid closing said casing with the sheet-like films stored therein, and a presser mounted on said lid for pressing the sheet-like films stored in said casing toward said exposure opening, comprising the steps of:

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feeding said casing and said lid on a main assembly line;

supplying said film cover to said main assembly line and assembling the film cover in said casing; and

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supplying said presser to said main assembly line and assembling the presser on said lid.